

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Natural Propagation of Rainbow Trout in Western Australia.—

Since the first introduction of trout into Western Australian waters by Mr. C. A. Glew in 1930 and in later years by the Pemberton hatchery, there have been many plantings in local streams, north to the Gingin Brook, of hatchery-raised fry and older fish. However during all these years no evidence was forthcoming that natural propagation was taking place.

Natural spawning was first proved on August 29, 1951, through the finding by Mr. Charles W. Brown, of Dwellingup, of small Rainbow Trout fry at Davis Brook, just below Holyoake. Davis Brook is a tributary of the Murray River and larger fry were observed in the Murray itself, at Caraholly, by Mr. H. Birmingham about the same time. No fry had been liberated in the Murray system this year and the occurrences reported are conclusive of natural spawning.—A. J. FRASER, Fisheries Department, Perth.

Nesting Sites of Yellow-tailed Thornbill.—On July 4, 1948, at Caron, I found a pair of Thornbills, *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*, constructing a nest in the side of a Raven's nest of the previous year. The thornbills were making frequent visits with building material. On one occasion two birds were present at one time and entered the nest in succession. The nest appeared to comprise a cup, i.e., the dome of the egg-chamber and the upper cup still remained to be completed.

When I revisited the nest on July 18 the two birds were still engaged in building, but on August 1 I found the Raven's nest on the ground under the tree, having been blown down, in all probability, by high winds on July 30. The Raven's nest was shallow with little lining and was constructed of sticks one-quarter to one-half of an inch in diameter. The Thornbill's nest was an unusually neat one, dimensions being approximately 5 in. high by 4 in. in width. There was no perceptible cup nest. Lining material included feathers of the Port Lincoln Parrot. The egg chamber contained one egg intact and the remains of what was probably one other fresh egg.

On September 1 I located another Thornbill's nest under the base of an old Butcher-bird's nest 18 ft. from the ground in a York Gum (*Eucalyptus foecunda*) and 100 yards from the locality of the nest mentioned above. On September 6 the Thornbills were lining their nest. When I was again able to visit the area, which was not until October 24, there was no activity at this nest.

A third Thornbill's nest was, however, located, this time in the base of a Squeaker's nest which had been built during September and deserted. This site was 60 yards from the one mentioned above.

As all three nests were built within a distance of 160 yards, and as each was built into the base of a large stick nest, it appears possible, even likely, that the three nests were built by the one pair of birds with a preference for this type of nest site.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Wooroloo.